

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-11 /161 W
-----049902 210109Z /41

R 181455Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3822
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, PARM, UN, SW
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR THORSSON ON SSOD

REF: STOCKHOLM 1934

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: AMBASSADOR INGA THORSSON, A PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT OF AND SPOKESMAN FOR SWEDEN'S IMPRESSIVELY BROAD INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD DISARMAMENT MATTERS, WAS INTERVIEWED ON MAY 17 ON SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. THORSSON, AFTER FM SODER, WILL BE THE HIGHEST RANKING MEMBER OF THE GOS DELEGATION AND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN NEW YORK THROUGHOUT THE SESSION.

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2. DEPLORING THE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN REACHING UNIVERSALLY-ACCEPTED SOLUTIONS TO THE ARMS RACE, THORSSON ASSURED SWEDISH MEDIA THAT GOS AND GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER SMALLER POWERS WOULD WORK RELENTLESSLY TO EXERT GREAT PRESSURE ON THE SUPERPOWERS TO MOVE FORWARD ON DISARMAMENT. IN HER COMMENTS, SHE REFERRED TO:
(A) THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN AGREEMENT--THORSSON

THOUGHT SHE SAW A CTB BEING SIGNED IN 1978, DESPITE CURRENT DIFFERENCES. THE US AND UK, SHE SAID, APPEAR DETERMINED TO PRESENT A TREATY PROPOSAL TO THE UN "WHILE THE SOVIETS PLAY A WAITING GAME."

(B) NEUTRON WEAPON--THORSSON'S COMMENTS HERE REFLECTED A NEW (FOR HER) BALANCED APPROACH. INDICATING THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB IS "AN ENTIRELY UNACCEPTABLE WEAPON," THORSSON ADDED THAT "UNFORTUNATELY, THE NEUTRON BOMB DOES NOT REPRESENT THE PEAK OF THE NUCLEAR SPIRAL. IT IS SO EASY TO FORGET, FOR EXAMPLE, THE DANGEROUS NEW SOVIET WEAPONS--SUCH AS THE SS20 MOBILE MISSILE AND THE SATELLITE KILLERS. WORLD OPINION BLINDS ITSELF BY STARING AT AMERICAN NEUTRON BOMBS, WHICH WE KNOW ABOUT THANKS TO AN OPEN AMERICAN SOCIETY. I CANNOT ACCEPT THE CONCENTRATION ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON. THERE ARE WORSE AND DIRTIER WEAPONS. WE OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE US ABOUT R&D IN THE NUCLEAR ARMS FIELD BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVE OPENNESS THERE--WHICH WE DO NOT FIND IN THE EASTERN COUNTRIES WHERE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT GOES ON." THORSSON POINTED OUT THAT OPINION IS THEREFORE OFTEN DIRECTED AGAINST DEVELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE ON THE WESTERN SIDE AND THAT SWEDEN HAS AN OBLIGATION TO HAVE A MORE BALANCED VIEW ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON.

(C) MILITARY BUDGET REPORTING--THORSSON SAID THE EASTERN COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO REPORT OPENLY ON THEIR MILITARY BUDGETS. SWEDEN HAS OFFERED TO COMPLETE A UN STANDARD REPORTING FORM AND AT SSOD WILL BE URGING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER NATIONS TO DO THE SAME.

(D) DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT--ALL OF THE NORDIC DELEGATIONS, THORSSON SAID, WILL PUSH THEIR JOINT PROPOSAL AT SSOD FOR THE STUDY OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: THE "BALANCE" IN THE RECENT STATEMENTS OF VARIOUS GOS OFFICIALS WHENEVER THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE IS RAISED IS MOST WELCOME. AMBASSADOR THORSSON'S SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE SS20 AND OTHER NEW SOVIET WEAPONS WAS A MISSING ELEMENT IN HER OWN NUMEROUS SPEECHES AGAINST THE ER/RB WEAPON LAST FALL. WE ARE INFORMED THAT PM FALLDIN'S SPEECH TO THE SSOD ON MAY 24 WILL ALSO INCLUDE CRITICISMS OF SOVIET NUCLEAR ARMS DEVELOPMENT.

KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

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